



Marsh Musings

Fall 2006

A quarterly publication of FOHR Tinicum

Volume 0603

The Friends of the Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum is a non-profit cooperating association founded in 1997 to assist the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service in carrying out its educational, interpretive, and public use missions.

You Matter- A Message from FOHR President- Hank Hox

"I get by with a little help from my friends."

- John Lennon



A "Friend" tackles garlic mustard with Trail Tamers.

The refuge gets by with a lot of help from its Friends. It is that time of the year again, when you renew your commitment to John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum by joining or rejoining FOHR.

When you become a member of the Friends, you become part of the legacy of public service,

volunteerism, and optimism that made this refuge a reality in the first place. It began when Alston Jenkins, president of the Philadelphia Conservationists, helped preserve the impoundment in the 1950s. It continued when the Concerned Area Residents to Preserve Tinicum Marsh raised nearly hundreds of thousands of dollars to save the lagoons at Route 420 from development. It continues when a Trail Tamers pulls mile-a-minute or a volunteer leads a bird walk. It continues when you contribute what you can- be it time, money or talent. There is always more to do. From restoration and invasive species management to environmental education and mentoring, we are not done yet.

This year, with your help, we continued to provide funding and/or support for:

- Environmental Education supplies for the over 6,000 school children who visited and 200 teachers who participated in training
- A college intern to help with invasive species control and the impoundment study
- Phragmites control in refuge marshes- check out the wild rice!
- A comprehensive study of the lower Darby Watershed by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network
- Annual Cradle of Birding Wildlife and Conservation Festival
- Volunteers doing trail maintenance, photography, education and many other important refuge activities

I thank you personally but I also thank you on behalf of each visitor who was amazed to see a great blue heron, red-bellied turtle or fox up close for the first time. **You did that. Your membership and support made that happen.** Keep us the good work and thank you! If you want to be more involved with the Friends, consider coming to meeting or even becoming a board member. Contact me for more information. I can be found at the refuge a couple days a week. My email is hox0241@rcn.com.

Mark your Calendar-
Cradle of Birding Festival
September 16
Annual FOHR Meeting
October 29

Its time to renew your FOHR membership.

To keep costs down this year, you will not receive a separate mailing. Please provide us with your email if you have one so that we may email you with upcoming events, refuge closures and other information. You also have the option of receiving the newsletter via email to save paper, postage and time! Renewal form on page 11.



Take Note.
Bring your ideas to the next board meeting! FOHR Tinicum Board Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. The meetings are open to the public. You are invited to contribute!

Thank you to all our renewing members and contributors.
New members since Summer 2006

Red-bellied Turtle (\$50-99)

Tom & Ann Finn Cusick

Monarch (\$25-49)

Ms. Mary Trzeciak

Heron (\$15-24)

Mr. Patrick A. Crean

Warren J. Walker

Duckling (\$10-14)

Bob Olczak

Donations since Summer 2006:

Friends Central

108.70

Swarthmore Garden Club

100.00

St. Ignatius Church

35.00

Wood Duck Box Donations

50.00

Thank you for your generosity!

The official registration and financial information of the Friends of the Heinz Refuge at Tinicum may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



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A quarterly publication of the Friends of the Heinz Refuge at Tinicum

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Go Batty !

At the Annual Friends Meeting on October 29

This years annual meeting will appropriately feature **Bats**. Included in the festivities will be a presentation by the Philadelphia Zoo and a craft for kids. Come dressed in your Halloween costume! RSVP to the refuge at 215/ 365 3118 by October 22.



Who:

Any and all FOHR members and their guests-bring the whole family. Kids welcome!

When:

October 29. Barbecue starts at 2pm. Slide show, annual report and election begin at 3. BATS by the Philadelphia Zoo begins at 3:30. Take an early evening stroll and look for some bats immediately after.

Why:

Meet others who care about the refuge. Learn about what is going on and have fun!

Trail Tamers get busy clearing the ramp to the boardwalk!



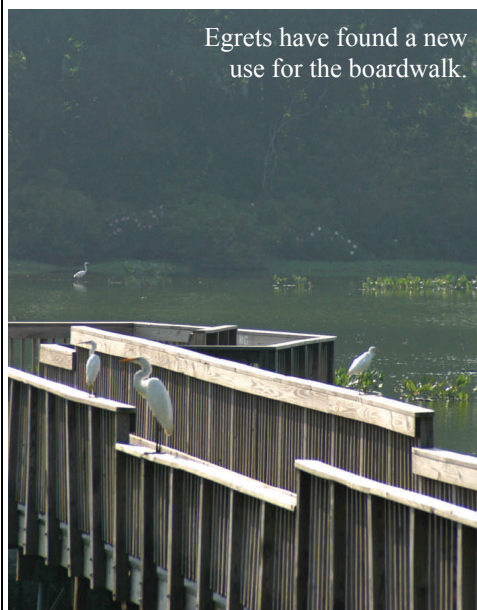
Trail Taming Tidbit

By Hank Hox

Neither rain, snow, sleet, heat warnings, extreme cold nor gloom deters our wonderful Volunteers from their work.

As of July, our regular Volunteers and other groups have donated well over 350 hours of there time and effort to trail taming. Some of their efforts have been the removal of invasive plants, mulching trails and painting, not to mention the cleaning of trash from the trails and grounds. There has been a noticeable difference in the amount of trash being left behind by visitors due to the maintained appearance of the trails.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all that have participated and welcome all to join us on the second Saturday of each Month, 9am till Noon.



Why Volunteer?

By Fritz Thornton

We need people of all ages, sizes, and abilities to help at Heinz. You can help (and learn) by working as a trail tamer or educational nature or bird walk leader. You can help inside with the store or classroom projects- they're all there.

Why volunteer- what's in it for you? When your boss sees your activity it can raise you to better things in your company. Your fellow workers become interested by you giving back. It causes interest and contributions by corporation of money or time. Most of all you get the satisfaction of having done something good for nature and the environment something that will be lasting and good for your kids and their kids as well as your present friends and neighbors. And isn't that more helpful and productive than your golf game or gambling runs to the casino?

Volunteer opportunities are always available!

Feature job:

Education volunteer.

Assist teachers and students on their visits to the refuge.

Training provided! Talk with Erika for more information.

Calling All Photographers!

By Larry DiPietro

The FOHR Photography Group invites all photographers to join us at our next meeting on **Sunday, Oct. 15, 2006, at 10:00 A.M.** Check at the front desk for which room we'll be using that day. Attending this meeting does not commit you to membership. We are not a "camera club" in that we don't hold inter-group competitions or pay dues to the group. Membership, should you become interested in joining, requires only that you become a member FOHR, which has its own membership fees. Our scheduled meetings are held on the third Sunday of: Jan., April, July & Oct. at 10:00 A.M.

Our purpose is to provide still & video documentation of events on the Heinz Refuge and to join other photographers for instruction and a venue to share our photography with others. We hold an annual photography contest that welcomes photographers, children and adults, of any degree of competency to enter their prints.

We hold one day seminars for area students to come to the refuge for instruction in photography as well as an education in observing and protecting the natural world. The program, aptly named, "Through-The-Lens", is coordinated through the teachers in local schools.

You may have noticed nature photographs hanging on the walls of the CEEC. These photographs are the work of our Photo Group members and are part of a display of 20 photographs that are available for public display. If you know of a place that could display an exhibit of this size, for at least one month, please notify Bill Buchanan at 215-365-3118. He will make the contacts and arrangements. We would like to display this exhibit in banks, community centers, libraries, or other public places available to us.

If you would like an introduction to, or a refresher course in nature photography join us on **Sat. Sept. 16, 2006, at 8:00 A.M.** Bill Buchanan will be leading a workshop during our annual Cradle of Birding Festival. Photographers will be instructed in technique, choosing equipment and the ethics of nature photography.

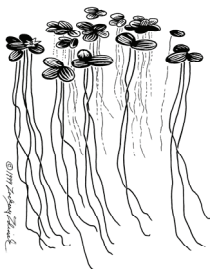
Photo Group Members: Ron Holmes, Robert Richards, and Mark Bohn put together the traveling Photo Group exhibit. Photo by Bill Buchanan



EE Coming Attractions...

Author Jane Kirkland, from the Take A Walk series will be visiting the refuge!
Stay tuned for more information! Visit www.takeawalk.com to learn about Jane and her writings.

New education equipment for teachers of early elementary for teachers of Pre-K through 2nd grade. Refuge volunteers and interns have assembled trail bags, in addition to the themed activity backpacks and the refuge recently acquired 20 5x30 binoculars, perfect for little hands! For more information, contact EE Specialist Erika Scarborough at 215-365-3118 or Erika_scarborough@fws.gov



Partners conduct workshops for refuge in the fall...

Wetlands for MS & HS teachers—October 26th, 2006 9am—3pm

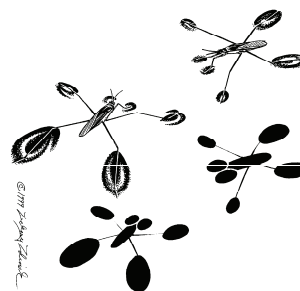
A free hands-on workshop to educate teachers about the importance of wetlands to wild-life and people. Come prepared to go outside. Instructors are from the PA Fish and Boat Commission and the PA Game Commission. Pre-registration required.

ROW! River of Words—November 4th, 2006 9am – 4pm

River of Words® is an international nature-based science, art and poetry program created to promote watershed awareness, literacy and the arts. The workshop provides K-12 educators (classroom teachers and other non-formal educators) with ideas and inspiration for integrating nature exploration and the arts into core subject areas like science and math, social studies, and language arts. The cost for this course is \$100. Pre-registration required.

WOW! For Early Childcare Providers—November 10th, 2006, 9am – 4pm

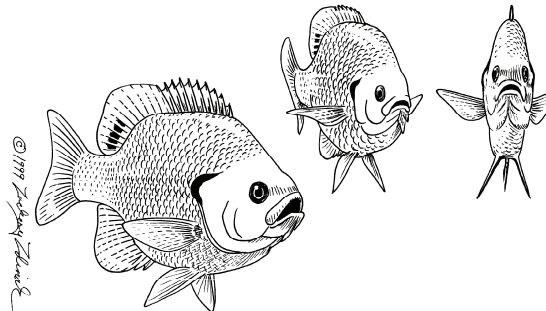
Bring the magic of wetlands into your daycare or preschool program! This workshop will introduce you to the three parameters of wetlands (soil, water, and plants) as well as wetland functions and values through fun and interactive activities in lesson plan format. The cost for this course is \$45 Pre-registration required.



WOW! Las Maravillas do Los Humedales—November 11th, 2006, 9am – 4pm

Bring the Wonders of Wetlands into your classroom in Spanish! Discuss the basics of wetlands and provide you with wetland activities and information to bring back to your students in Spanish. The Spanish module of WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands contains translations of more than a dozen of our favorite activities and students pages. Great resources for ESOL teachers, Spanish teachers, Formal and Non-formal Environmental Science Teachers. The Cost for this course is \$55. Pre-registration is required.

Contact Environmental Education Specialist Erika Scarborough at 215-365-3118 or Erika.scarborough@fws.gov for more information on any of these courses or go to our website <http://heinz.fws.gov>. For more information about PICE or ECI, please go to www.picweb.org or www.wetland.org.



Events Fall 2006

September

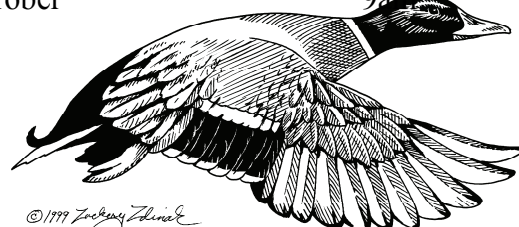
2	Refuge Management Walk	Kate McManus	9am
4	<i>Happy Labor Day. Buildings Closed. Grounds Open Sunrise to Sunset.</i>		
9	Trail Tamers-Volunteers Welcome!	Hank Hox	9am
10	Beginning Birding	Denis Brennan	9am
	Family Program	Margie Gallagher	1pm
16	Cradle of Birding Wildlife and Conservation Festival Free Family Fun, Live Animals, Exhibits, Music 10-3		
17	Beginning Birding	Carole Brown	9am
23	Birds, Trees and Flowers	Tom Reeves	9am
24	Early Fall Birding	Mary Ellen Krober	9 am
30	Let's See Birds	Doris McGovern	9am

October

1	Let's Listen to Birds	Doris McGovern	9am
7	Birding at Tinicum	Debbie Beer	9am
8	Beginning Birding	Denis Brennan	9am
	Family Program	Margie Gallagher	1pm
9	<i>Columbus Day. Buildings Closed. Grounds Open Sunrise to Sunset.</i>		
14	Trail Tamers-Volunteers Welcome!	Hank Hox	9am
15	Fall Birds	Robert Confer	9am
	Photo Group Meeting-All Welcome!	Larry DiPietro	10am
21	Birds, Trees and Flowers	Tom Reeves	9am
22	Fall Birds	Gregg Gorton	9am
28	Beginning Birding	Lynn Roman	9am
29	Tinicum's Migrants	Edie Parnum	9am

November

4	Tinicum's Migrants	Skip Conant	8am
5	Fall Birds of Tinicum	Edie Parnum	9am
10-11	<i>Veterans Day. Buildings Closed. Grounds Open Sunrise to Sunset.</i>		
12	Beginning Birding	Denis Brennan	9am
	Family Program	Margie Gallagher	1pm
18	Late Migrants	Brian Byrnes	1pm
19	Fall Migrants	Gregg Gorton	9am
23	<i>Happy Thanksgiving! Buildings Closed. Grounds Open Sunrise to Sunset.</i>		
25	Birds, Trees and Flowers	Tom Reeves	9am
26	Late Migrants	Mary Ellen Krober	9am



We Knew It All Along!

By Bill Buchanan

Most major cities have their own magazines that highlight the good, bad, and ugly of their particular geographical area.

Philadelphia Magazine serves just that purpose for the "City of Brotherly Love" and among one of its more iconic offerings each year is its "Best of Philly" awards. Those coveted words and the recognition (bragging rights!) are often used as banners that grace the doors of local restaurants, hair stylists, car dealerships, and even local health care providers and a plethora of entertainment and arts venues. So when one of a new group of award recipients included "Unlikely Oasis" and that honor came to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, we were, to put it mildly, shocked, ecstatic, and honored!

Philadelphia Magazine Editor, Larry Platt, noted on his "Editor's Column" for the August, 2006, "Best of Philly" issue, "We don't want to tell you what you already know about your world-we want to change it, by introducing you to places and things and people." He also said, "If, like me, you grew up around here, that issue sat on your coffee table year-round, your road map for how to navigate the region." Platt pointed out that their staff "fanned out and unearthed things in our region worth celebrating".



Of course, we all know that the National Wildlife Refuge System is all about celebrating the wildlife and habitat it has been our privilege to protect, enhance and introduce to the American people. But when you are singled out by a sophisticated publication like Philadelphia Magazine, well, let's just say we couldn't be prouder. And we really believe that they realize taking care of a truly urban wildlife refuge is a constant struggle, but one well worth the effort when you see it in the faces of all those who just seem to bond with this "urban oasis". As noted in our "spotlight of recognition" the magazine wrote, "When you think of the great outdoors, the words "near the airport" probably don't spring to mind. Yet this refuge, just a stone's throw from Philly International, is home to a menagerie of wildlife, from migratory birds to muskrats to Southern leopard frogs." It goes on to tell about our trails, boardwalks and outdoor recreation offerings ending with....."making the Heinz the most interesting bit of real estate served by SEPTA."

From our point of view, the folks at Philadelphia Magazine hit the nail right on the head!

Refuge Revelations

By: Cynthia L. Dragish

Late one Sunday afternoon as the sun was setting in the sky and the temperatures attempted to chill me, I rolled down the sleeves of my sweatshirt and walked along the Pipeline Trail. Who knows at this point how many times I've walked along this path, kicking up stones as I walked and gave advice to new people on which paths to hike along.

It occurred to me this time though, that this path weaves directly in between two worlds – Darby Creek and the Tinicum Marsh. I began to wonder to myself, does anybody else realize how important this path is? This very path distinguishes where to go, how to navigate between these two bodies of water, and how to get to your next destination. It's interesting to think that not only does it lead towards peace in the refuge as a trail of tranquility but that it can be a path of reflection on the inside of the walker or hiker as well.

At the beginning of the trail you can either look to the right to see Darby Creek, a creek that many of us care about but that other people abuse with litter and refuge. A direction that unfortunately isn't as pleasant to look at. On the right hand side you see the Tinicum Marsh, a beautiful scene of animals and wildlife flourishing heavily with Lilly pads and reeds growing in abundance, and honeysuckle growing along its banks. You have two views in front of you on this path. It is up to you to decide which one to reflect on.

The same goes for our lives. We can choose to view or dwell on the events and situations that aren't as pretty, or choose to help clean up those messy areas. Or we can focus on the more positive aspects of our world whether it is internal or external. Both directions are essential for us to experience, but you cannot observe only side. You must learn how to balance your views in order to fully experience this walk called life.

As you take a walk along the Pipeline Trail next time, make sure you're reflecting correctly. And don't worry about tripping over a couple stones along the way, if you keep going you'll find that others tripped too but still enjoyed the view.



Wild Rice makes a comeback in Tinicum Marsh.
Photo by Bill Buchanan

New Nature Photography Exhibit On Display

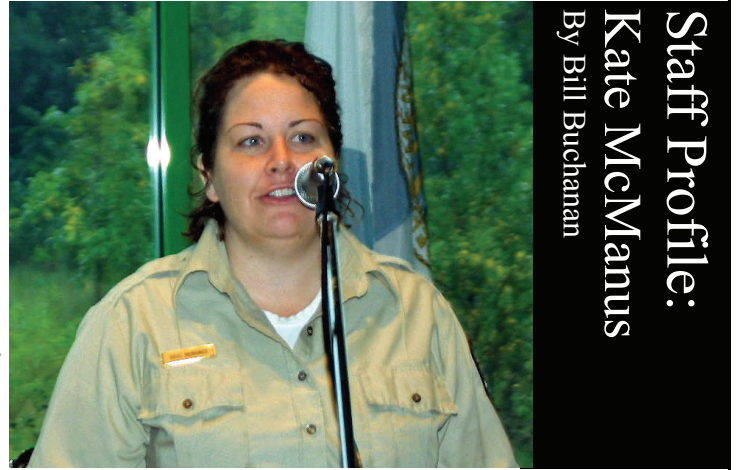
By Gary Stolz

Professional nature photographer Andy Smith has been taking exploring the Heinz refuge and taking photos for many years. Andy has loaned a collection of his favorite images to the refuge for the fall where they are now on display in the multi-purpose room. This photography exhibit contains natural images, nature photographs of landscapes, birds, animals, natural objects. As an avid birder Andy takes many bird photographs but also includes a variety of both landscape and other wildlife photography. While concentrating on birds, Andy also captures the beauty of sunsets, sunrises, mountains, waterfalls, butterflies, insects and many other outdoor scenes. Come enjoy a view of nature through Andy's eyes in his beautiful traveling exhibit.

Staff Profile: Kate McManus, Refuge Manager: Here's the Dirt

By Bill Buchanan

When we look at our refuge staff everyone seems to fit into a specific, often specialized area: environmental education, contaminants specialist, public affairs, law enforcement, maintenance, and so forth. But there is one person who must be able to take all of this in, like the parts of a machine, make sure they fit together and that the machine runs smoothly. That person, for us, is Kate McManus. Kate seems to understand just about every facet of the workings of her staff and never seems to shrug away from a constant barrage of questions, requests, and consultations. She is very savvy as to how government works and is not afraid to "get out in trenches" with her staff.



As to the path that led her to where she is today she said, "Growing up on a dairy farm, I was always interested in dirt." She actually grew up not all that far from the refuge, in Phoenixville. Her interests would take her to George Washington University in Washington, D.C. where she majored in Archeology. After a short time she realized she wanted a career that "made a difference on the ground" so she switched over to the biology department and graduated with a degree in Environmental Studies. After 4 years in DC, Kate took off for what she said was, "the end of the Earth-or at least what felt like it", the Comoros Islands, just off the coast of East Africa, near Madagascar. She spent 2 years as a Peace Corp volunteer in a small village working with teachers, women's groups and Boy Scouts on environmental training and projects. Kate notes, "It was the most challenging and rewarding thing that I have ever done."

After 2 years of no running water or electricity, numerous bouts with tropical diseases, and a trip through East Africa with just a backpack, Kate moved back to DC to work for EPA's Energy Star Buildings program. The month long government shutdown in 1995 pushed Kate to put in applications for grad school and was accepted at the Yale School of Forestry earning her Masters in Resource Management in the Urban Environment.

From Yale it was back to government where she became a temporary FEMA disaster inspector, as she says, "to pay back student loans!" She eventually became a full time FEMA staffer but grew tired of the constant travel. She applied for the Assistant Manager position at John Heinz, after Tom Walker left and came on board as Dick Nugent's second in command in 1999. During Kate's first stint at Tinicum she was just in time to experience the Sunoco Oil Spill, Hurricane Floyd, and the completion of the Cusano Environmental Education Center. Kate would leave us after 2 ½ years as Assistant Manager to become Assistant Manager at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge in southern Delaware. Her stint at Prime Hook gave her the opportunity to gain more biological management experience as well as deal with controversies from endangered species to contamination. Kate also served as acting Refuge Manager for 10 months at Prime Hook, which set her up very well for her return to John Heinz in October 2003 as our new manager. Kate notes that about 3 ½ years ago her priorities took a big change with the birth of her son Kole.

Regarding her role at the refuge since becoming manager and her thoughts about the many changes we are seeing as a resource agency and the public's relationship with nature, Kate does not pull any punches with her answers. About the challenges we are now seeing she said, "I think the most challenging aspect recently has been dealing with larger Fish and Wildlife Service budget issues and having to make cuts." When asked about what she sees as the most rewarding aspect in her role she answered, "Biologically, when something goes right, whether by design or happy accident, like the wild rice making a comeback in the marshes or the success we've had with the impoundment study. On the human side, whenever we have a group of kids here and they are excited about seeing an owl or great blue heron, it makes my day."

As for the direction the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Wildlife Refuge System seem to be going she said, "FWS, like many other domestic programs is dealing with the new budget reality-less money and rising fixed costs like salaries and utilities. In the past we've always had the motto "Do more with less". These days we are focused on what is our mission and what can we do well given the resources that we have and where can we partner with others to effect change that we want to see."

Finally, when asked about the latest buzz that we, especially children, are becoming more detached from nature Kate harkened back to her own childhood. "As a kid, I had the opportunity to play outside for hours on end, building forts, acquiring poison ivy, and getting lost in the woods. Those kinds of experiences helped shape my interest in environmental work. It's harder for kids to have that today-whether it be from a lack of safe places to play outdoors or just a lack of unscheduled time. Parents have an important role to play in making sure that their kids have those outdoor adventures. We have a role as environmental educators to incorporate more aspects of opened ended exploration and play into our work with kids."

Cradle of Birding Coming September 16

By Gary Stolz

Are you ready for a really wild time? Hope so... because we are now just around the corner from Saturday, September 16th and the third annual Cradle of Birding Wildlife & Conservation Festival. Hundreds of visitors now annually flock to the refuge to celebrate our nation's wildlife heritage with free food, live music, live animals shows, historical reenactments, great speakers, special tours and dozens of exciting exhibits. Come join us on the 16th for the 2006 festival, featuring renowned keynote speaker, photographer and tour guide Kevin Karlson, author of the new highly acclaimed book "The Shorebird Guide" and photographer for Kenn Kaufmann's Focus Guide to Birds of North America. Volunteers are always needed! To help out Deputy Refuge Manager Gary Stolz at (215) 365-3118, stop by the office or email gary_stolz@fws.gov right away and with all our important partners involved, we look forward to an exciting festival.

Talkin' Trash

Dear Readers,

Thank you to all those of you who have remembered to drop off your used ink and toner cartridges, and your old cell phones! Thanks to your efforts to help us recycle, we received a check in April for \$306.00 for three months worth of recycled cartridges and cell phones. In June, we received a check for \$93.00. We would like to continue this worthwhile effort, and we need **YOUR** help to do that. Recycling these items helps the environment as well as the refuge.

PLEASE.....remember us when you go to dispose of that old cell phone or inkjet, laser or toner cartridges. The plastic in each cartridge takes more than 1,000 years to decompose, and 1.5 million cartridges go to land fills each month.

FOHR Tinicum is participating in the Green School Organization Project, a program that reduces this incredible waste and earns money for our organization. We collect **ALL BRANDS** of empty printer, fax, and copier cartridges as well as cell phones for recycling. Please bring these items to the Cusano Environmental Education Center (CEEC) to be deposited in the FOHR Tinicum collection box located in "Tinicum Treasures" book/gift shop. If the store is not open, please drop your items at the front desk and they will be deposited into our recycling container.

Also, your work place can help by recycling their used cartridges and cell phones. If your work place is interested in helping us with this project, contact Annemarie Rapp at 610-485-7378 or anneagle@juno.com and she will make arrangements for a pick up area.

Thank you again for helping our organization and our environment through this program.

Anne Marie Rapp



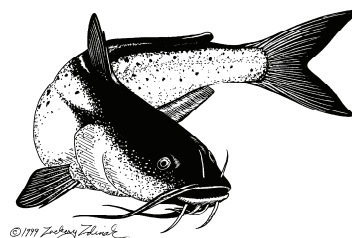
We All Live Downstream

By Fritz Thornton

Waste disposal and water pollution: improper use of storm water creates these problems; so does dumping in Darby Creek and their feeder creeks. Chemicals and waste oil dumped in Cobbs Creek Park leach into the soil, down into the Cobbs and into Darby Creek into Heinz where it poisons fish, birds, and other wildlife. If we pollute upstream in the Darby watershed stream it impacts Tinicum Marsh.

Contact your local conservation district or waste authority. They can tell you where and when to dispose of anything from chemicals to computers. Or check out the website <http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/recycle/hhw.html> It contains information about all the household hazardous waste days in the tri-county area.

Remember we all live downstream and want clean land and water!



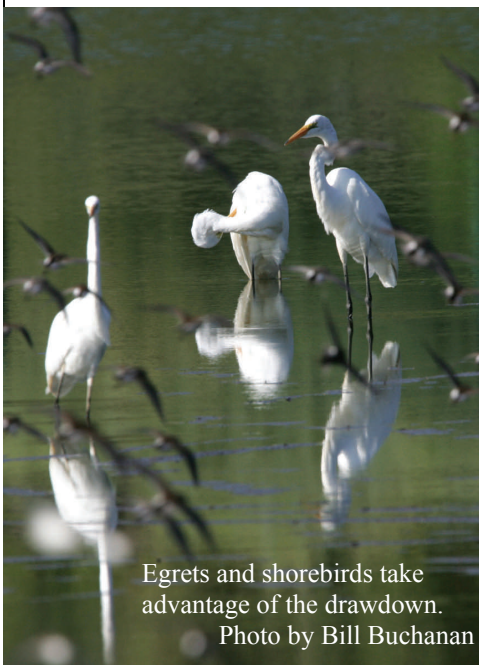
Biology Beat

The birds are coming, the birds are coming!!!

By Brendalee Phillips

As fall migration of shorebirds begin, in year 2 of the 3 year impoundment study, visitors to the refuge can view a few thousand birds in a one day visit. During high tide on any given day, we are seeing almost 2 thousand shorebirds consisting of various "peep" species and yellowlegs; hundreds of wading birds including Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, and Great Blue Herons; and over a hundred waterfowl comprised mostly of Mallards, Wood Ducks, and Canada Geese.

This year the lowering of the water level in the Impoundment was started in mid-April and was meant to be a slow process taking until mid-June to reach the lowest point. With the strange combination of a dry spring, followed by bouts of heavy rains and flooding, it was a challenge, but we made it.



Egrets and shorebirds take advantage of the drawdown.
Photo by Bill Buchanan

The biggest downside to the draw-down has been the death of some of the fish, primarily large carp.

Although expected, it is not a pretty sight or smell and there is little we can do about it. Unfortunately, sometimes we have to weigh the needs of one animal group against that of another and in this case, the possibility to provide much needed feeding habitat for the migrating shorebirds wins out over the non-native and over abundant fish species.

Why do the fish die? Well, as the water level drops, the fish move to deeper spots in the impoundment, but then they get trapped there and quickly use up the oxygen in their little pocket of water. With the heat waves we experienced, as the water temperature rises, the level of dissolved oxygen in the water declines, then add a high demand for oxygen on the part of the fish and there just isn't enough available to sustain them. There are still plenty of fish in the impoundment and when we raise the water level back up in the fall, you can bet they will thrive once again.

Next year is the final year of the three year Impoundment study and the drawdown schedule will be the same as it was this year. We are learning a lot about how to best manage for the birds and what effect the varied treatments have on native and invasive plant



Brendalee gets in touch with her inner gunslinger for the detectability survey of the impoundment study. Suzanne uses specialized hearing protection!

growth. Our goal is to be able to analyze this data and then develop a management plan that will best serve all aspects of the ecosystem.



Welcome Sara Kenney!

By Gary Stolz

"Ask not what your country can do for you, but rather what you can do for your country," was the philosophy of President John F. Kennedy when he initiated the VISTA program in 1963. VISTA has often been compared to a domestic Peace Corp program.

The Refuge has just become a new partner with VISTA and we are very fortunate to now have on board Sara Kenney. Sara earned her bachelor's degree in anthropology from Virginia's University of Mary Washington last spring and completed VISTA training this summer. Sara brings a wide variety of skills from working at a number of archeology sites in Virginia, as well as experience with Fairfax Public Schools, Mary Washington College, SPCA and a local homeless shelter. Sara also brings both excellent people and computer skills to the job. She loves wildlife and outdoor work and will be a great asset to the refuge team, for this exciting year long VISTA program. Welcome Sara!

Refuge Rap

By Kate McManus

Its been a couple of issues since I last gave a "state of the refuge Report." So I've got a lot of ground to cover. As always, please give me a call or email if you have questions or want talk about any of the issues.

Pipeline Oil Spill Update

More than 6 years after the Sunoco Pipeline Oil Spill, the refuge has begun planning in earnest for marsh restoration. The Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) from the spill is being combined with NRDA from the Publicker Superfund Site. The combined funds will be used to restore freshwater tidal marsh habitat. Immediately after the spill, a number of options were considered. Working with the FWS Pennsylvania Field Office, it was quickly narrowed down to restoring what

many know as the "Corps property.", near Hoy's Pond. The initial plan is currently under review by the Department of Interior solicitor and Region 5. After approval, it will be posted in Federal Register. In the meantime, we'll be performing soil sampling to help identify contaminants issues. Construction is many months away but we'll keep you posted.

Restoration Plan Available

A management plan for the Lower Darby Creek Watershed is now available at the refuge website. This report was prepared by the Delaware Riverkeeper with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The Friends worked with Refuge staff to apply for the grant and couldn't be happier with the outcome. The report provides new ideas, insights, and information for the Refuge staff and others in the area to use in planning and

decision making. A big thank you to Dan Salas and Dave Williams from the Riverkeeper for all their hard work and dedication.

Cradle of Birding

Please be our guest at the Cradle of Birding Festival on September 16th. Congressman Curt Weldon will kick off the official festivities at 10 am. He'll be honoring some local folks for their contributions to the refuge. A big thank you to all the exhibitors and Gary Stolz, Assistant Manager for all his hard work in putting this annual event together.

We've had a lot of great things happen over the last few months from the wild rice in the marshes to our best of Philly nomination. We could not do all of these things without our Friends and volunteers. Thanks!

Renew your Friends of the Heinz Refuge Membership Today!

This is a ____ new ____ renewal ____ gift membership.

I am joining FOHR Tinicum at the following membership level:

- ____ \$500 Wild Rice (Corporate)
- ____ \$250 Merlin (Sustaining)
- ____ \$100 Red Fox (Contributing)
- ____ \$50 Red-bellied Turtle (Group)
- ____ \$25 Monarch (Family)
- ____ \$15 Heron (Individual)
- ____ \$10 Duckling (Student/Senior)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

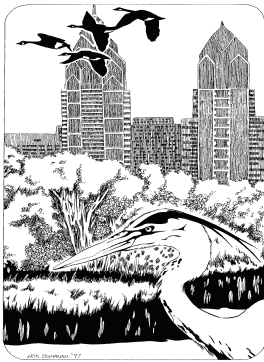
Phone _____

Email _____

____ Yes, I am interested in receiving the newsletter via email to save paper and postage.

Make checks payable to FOHR Tinicum and mail to P.O. Box 333 Folcroft, PA 19032-0333 or bring to the refuge next time you visit.

Membership in FOHR Tinicum runs annually from Oct 1 to Sept 30 of each year. Membership entitles you to attend member only events and a 10% discount at gift shops operated by Friends of National Wildlife Refuges in the Mid Atlantic. The best benefit of membership is knowing that you support the conservation of the largest remaining fresh water tidal marshes in Pennsylvania and one of the most urban National Wildlife Refuges in the country!

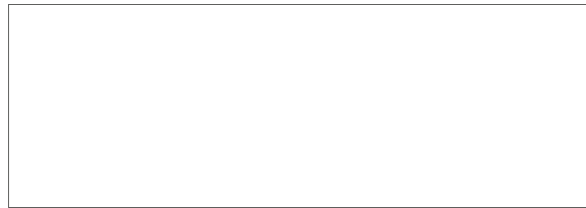


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Thank you in advance for your timely renewal.
Please join us at the Annual Meeting on October 29!

Here is your chance to give us your feedback.

What kinds of programs do you think FOHR should do?

Want to get involved? What do you want to do?
